



News Release

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Coast-to-Coast “Jane’s Walks” Celebrate Livable Cities

West Valley City residents take to sidewalks May 1 to explore in footsteps of urbanist Jane Jacobs

West Valley City – Jane Jacobs (1916-2006) was neither architect nor urban planner, but she was a specialist in the study of cities. Her writings championed a fresh, community-based approach to city building and have left a lasting imprint on a generation of professionals. Now, others with a stake in improving the livability and vibrancy of cities—those who actually live in them—also have an opportunity to be influenced by Jacobs’ work by taking part in a “Jane’s Walk”. These **free**, neighborhood-walking tours will be held the first weekend in May across the country and create opportunities for neighbors to explore their environs together on foot.

West Valley City’s Planning and Zoning Division has planned two walks in West Valley City. “These walk’s are an exciting way for residents to explore and get to know unique areas of West Valley City,” says Long Range Planner Frank Lilly. “We hope that residents will take this opportunity to learn more about Utah’s second largest City”

Granger Crossing: Saturday May 1, 10:30 a.m. – 12 noon

Meeting Place: The walk will begin and end at the Grizzly Piazza shopping center (3500 South 2200 West; north side of the street look for the Greek Souvlaki). Registration is not required.

On this Jane’s Walk, participants will explore the unique character of the Granger Crossings business district, a commercial node at 3500 South and Redwood Road that caters to a regional ethnic community. Granger Crossings features over 50 businesses that are owned by or cater to ethnic minorities. Granger Crossings includes a Bus Rapid Transit stop, is close to several area hotels and the E-Center, and is immediately adjacent to a single-family neighborhood. Despite these opportunities, poor connectivity and a seven-lane arterial make walking a profile in courage.

Chesterfield: Saturday, May 1, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Meeting Place: Redwood Elementary School, 2650 South Redwood Road. Registration is not required.

In this walk, participants will explore one of the valley’s most interesting neighborhoods – Chesterfield – West Valley City’s oldest neighborhood with a distinctive rural residential feel. Chesterfield has good connections to regional recreational facilities, including the Jordan River Parkway, and will soon be within walking distance to a new TRAX light rail station. Chesterfield is also home to a Tongan United Methodist Church, a mosque, and a charter school currently under construction. West Valley City has begun a community planning process that will result in a new master plan for Chesterfield. Given that development might change the neighborhood’s character in the future, now is the time to engage in a discussion on the best way forward for a very unique and neglected neighborhood.

45 different events are currently scheduled across the US, from Boston to Los Angeles, and more are being added daily. More information is available at www.janeswalkusa.org.

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